

DNA REPORT WRITING-CONTAMINATION

A. SCOPE

The laboratory report must communicate both the analytical results and the conclusions of the examiner, conveying the essence of the expert testimony in court. The notes and other documentation must support the conclusions of the examiner. Decisions may be made by police officers, attorneys and the courts based on the report alone without examiner clarification, so the report should be able to stand alone. The report must contain the information required in the Laboratory Quality Assurance Manual and the FBI DNA Quality Assurance Audit Document.

Typical casework reporting should follow the recommended reporting statements, as appropriate. It is recognized that not every situation can be represented by these statements and that it may be necessary to modify the statements to accurately reflect the results.

NOTE: If some peaks are obtained in a reagent control that are below 75 RFU (PowerPlex 16 HS and GlobalFiler) and 50 RFU (Yfiler) then as long as they meet the reagent control requirements as described in Doc 1835 this sample will be considered clean.

B. REPORTING STATEMENTS

B.1. CONTAMINATION

B.1.1. Scenario Example: One of the two reagents controls contain low level results that are from an unknown source. Exclusions can be made. All other samples are clean.

Reporting Statement: Reagent controls are processed in duplicate. Low level DNA results were obtained from one of the reagent controls associated with this case. These results are not consistent with coming from any samples associated with this reagent control, do not affect any conclusions, and are isolated to this reagent control only.

B.1.2. Scenario Example: One of the two reagents controls contain low level results but the results are too low to make any exclusions or inclusions. All other samples are clean.

Reporting Statement: Reagent controls are processed in duplicate. Low level DNA results were obtained from one of the reagent controls associated with this case. Due to a low level of DNA, no conclusions can be offered for these results. These results do not affect any conclusions and are isolated to this reagent control only.

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B.1.3. Scenario Example: Analyst profile in one of the two reagent controls. All associated samples are clean.

Reporting Statement: Reagent controls are processed in duplicate. DNA results consistent with the analyst who processed the evidence in this case were obtained from one of the reagent controls associated with this case. These results do not affect any conclusions and are isolated to this reagent control only.

B.1.4. Scenario Example: DNA profile in one of the two reagent controls that matches a case sample.

Reporting Statement: Reagent controls are processed in duplicate. DNA results were obtained from one of the reagent controls associated with this case. These DNA results are consistent with originating from an evidence sample in this case. These results do not affect any conclusions and are isolated to this reagent control only.

B.1.5. Scenario Example: DNA profile in one of the two reagent controls that matches a sample co-processed with this case.

Reporting Statement: Reagent controls are processed in duplicate. DNA results were obtained from one of the reagent controls associated with this case. These DNA results are consistent with originating from an evidence sample co-processed with this case. These results do not affect any conclusions and are isolated to this reagent control only.

B.1.6. Scenario Example: Low level DNA results obtained in both reagent controls but the contamination is different between the two and no exclusions or inclusions can be made.

Reporting Statement: Low level DNA results were obtained from two of the reagent controls associated with this case. Due to a low level of DNA, no conclusions can be offered for these DNA results. These results do not affect any conclusions in this case.

B.1.7. Scenario Example: The same DNA results were obtained in both reagent controls and these results match an evidence sample processed with the controls. No exclusions or inclusions can be made at any loci where the results at both reagent controls match an associated evidence sample. If a full matching profile is present than the following statement would be used.

Reporting Statement: Due to possible reagent contamination, no conclusions are being offered for the results obtained from the EVIDENCE.

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B.1.8. Scenario Example: Contamination in evidence sample (apparently from one evidence sample to another evidence sample).

Reporting Statement: Due to possible contamination, no conclusions are being offered for the results obtained from the EVIDENCE.

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